

1 the production or marketplace environment can only be described as naive. No  
2 testing can truly mimic an actual production environment because new scenarios  
3 continually emerge and human inventiveness cannot anticipate them all.

4 To the contrary, there is every reason -- including the demonstrable failure of  
5 Ameritech's limited trials with MCI -- to suspect that, when resale is truly up and  
6 running, Ameritech's OSS will encounter new problems for which it is not prepared  
7 and in the face of which even the best-designed systems -- which Ameritech's are  
8 not -- will default and err. The risk that such errors would impose substantial  
9 pecuniary and reputational harm upon new entrants is, in my opinion, great.  
10 Moreover, if Ameritech has already been permitted to provide long distance service  
11 by that time, regulators will have little leverage to ensure that the OSS systems are corrected.

## 12 Maintenance and Repair

13 Q: What is your opinion of Ameritech's OSS systems for maintenance and repair  
14 in the resale arena?

15 A: Ameritech uses the same ANSI-accredited electronic bonding interface for  
16 maintenance and repair functions for resale as it does for unbundled elements. As I  
17 mentioned earlier, the interface is appropriate but it is impossible to determine from  
18 the information submitted by Ameritech to date whether such systems are  
19 operationally ready. Ameritech has generally confirmed that its resale customers  
20 continue to use a manual interface for their maintenance and repair requests. In that

1 event, the mere fact that Ameritech has successfully used its EB interface for access  
2 services is an insufficient basis on which to conclude that its maintenance and repair  
3 systems and interfaces are truly ready to support local service resale, as discussed  
4 above.

5 **Billing**

6 **Q: Please discuss Ameritech's plan to provide resale billing information to its**  
7 **CLEC customers.**

8 **A: Ameritech purports to use EMR for daily usage reports and its own Ameritech**  
9 **Electronic Billing System ("AEBS") for monthly bills. In neither respect is**  
10 **Ameritech's proposal adequate.**

11 EMR is the appropriate interface for the communication of usage feeds.  
12 However, in trials with MCI, Ameritech has provided header and trailer records in  
13 EMI format. EMI format, which is used for interexchange carrier messages, should  
14 not be used for local exchange messages. The EMI record provides less  
15 call/recording detail than is sufficient for business purposes, and less than do the  
16 EMR formats.

17 Use of AEBS for monthly billing is flatly unacceptable. The industry  
18 standard is a specification of CABS called Billing Output Specifications. As a  
19 preliminary matter, use of AEBS instead imposes excessive and unjustified costs on  
20 those new entrants that are already using CABS for access billing in Ameritech's

1 region and that require a uniform national standard for national operations.  
2 Moreover, while MCI has expended considerable time and money adopting our  
3 systems to accommodate AEBS, still Ameritech has not provided us all the  
4 information we need to complete the task. In particular, Ameritech does not  
5 electronically support all the AEBS tables outlined in its Implementation Guide and  
6 has not been consistently supplementing its AEBS table information for all its local  
7 services. Some of the critical information Ameritech has failed to provide includes  
8 the Customer Service Record and calling plan or local usage detail. Without this  
9 information, MCI cannot audit its bills in a minimally acceptable manner.

10 Once again, however, the problems with Ameritech's OSS systems are not  
11 limited to its choice of interface. Rather, MCI's experience belies Ameritech's  
12 assertions elsewhere that all orders have been properly billed and that CLECs have  
13 received all necessary bill detail. The first bill we received from Ameritech for  
14 resold lines was riddled with errors. First, it was in CRIS format -- a format that,  
15 unlike CABS or even AEBS, provides no usage-sensitive data and is entirely un-  
16 auditable. The bill contains no call detail and does not even specify the billing  
17 period. Ameritech recognizes that its use of CRIS was erroneous, but has not yet  
18 explained how this error occurred. Furthermore, the details that did appear were  
19 egregiously wrong. For example, various charges were inconsistent with the tariffed  
20 rates. Also, Ameritech charged MCI for services not ordered and charged us for  
21 twice the quantity of most services we did order.



BEFORE THE  
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

In the Matter of	)	
Illinois Commerce Commission	)	
	)	Docket No. 96-0404
Investigation concerning Illinois	)	
Bell Telephone Company compliance	)	
with Section 271(c) of the	)	
Telecommunications Act	)	

SUPPLEMENTAL DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ALI MILLER  
ON BEHALF OF MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

1 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

2 A. My name is Ali Miller. I am employed by MCI with responsibility as Market Manager  
3 for local service in the Ameritech region. My business address is 707 17th St., Denver,  
4 CO, 80202

5 Q: PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES.

6 A: I am responsible for coordinating all activities involved in order to offer residential local  
7 service in the Ameritech states. I am also the main point of contact to Ameritech for  
8 MCI's Mass Markets organization. In this capacity, I have worked extensively with  
9 Ameritech with respect to their OSS for all resale ordering activities. I have worked with  
10 Ameritech to conduct testing on a small scale for their manual ordering process as well as  
11 submitting orders through their EDI interface.

1 Q: PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATION AND RELEVANT BACKGROUND

2 A: I have a Bachelors of Business Administration from the College of William and Mary  
3 and a Masters of Management from the Kellogg School of Business at Northwestern  
4 University. Prior to working at MCI, I was employed by Andersen Consulting as a  
5 Senior Consultant to help develop and implement sophisticated automated business  
6 systems. While at Andersen, I worked on various development projects for MCI, which  
7 included all phases of the systems development life cycle; requirements definition,  
8 system design, system development and user acceptance testing. These projects included  
9 various functional areas including marketing, billing, network engineering and account  
10 receivable.

11 Q: HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?

12 A: No I have not.

13 Q: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

14 A: The purpose of my testimony is to respond to Ameritech witnesses Rogers, Meixner and  
15 Kocher and their claims on the readiness of the RBOC's Operation Support Systems  
16 ("OSS"), used for the ordering, provisioning, maintaining and billing of resold service  
17 and unbundled network elements ("UNEs") by MCI and other CLECs.

18 Q: PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR TESTIMONY.

19 A: In short, I disagree with the broad and sweeping claims made by Ameritech that its

1 systems and associated documentation are sufficient to support CLEC entry into the local  
2 exchange market in Illinois. The new information provided in Ameritech's most recent  
3 testimony does not address the fundamental questions at issue in this proceeding,  
4 including: (i) whether Ameritech's OSS systems provide predictable and consistent  
5 results on a scalable basis for all functions required by the 1996 Telecommunications Act  
6 and the FCC Order; (ii) whether Ameritech provides sufficient documentation so that a  
7 CLEC may utilize the functionality that is supported.

8 Q: ARE YOU AWARE OF THE RECENT INVESTIGATION INTO THE READINESS  
9 OF AMERITECH'S OSS BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
10 WISCONSIN?

11 A: Yes. As the Illinois Commission may be aware, the Public Service Commission of  
12 Wisconsin has also been investigating the viability of Ameritech's OSS systems. I was  
13 participant in the Wisconsin hearings, conducted from 3/31 through 4/3. What was  
14 especially significant about the Wisconsin proceeding was that Commissioners  
15 themselves presided over the OSS portions of these hearings, actually questioning the  
16 witnesses in some instances. And as this Commission may be aware, on April 3, 1997,  
17 the PSC of Wisconsin concluded that Ameritech had failed to carry its burden to  
18 demonstrate the readiness its OSS. My understanding of the Wisconsin PSC's ruling is  
19 that it concluded that Ameritech's OSS do not yet support all required functionality, that  
20 Ameritech overly relies on manual processes, and that system defects remain, including

1 defects which would affect end users. Although a final written order is not yet available  
2 from that proceeding, a transcript of the oral comments of the Wisconsin Commissioners  
3 is attached to my testimony as Attachment I.

4 Q: WHAT HAS MCI'S EXPERIENCE BEEN TO DATE WITH AMERITECH'S OSS  
5 SYSTEMS?

6 A: MCI has been disappointed in its early attempts to utilize the EDI ordering systems and  
7 other aspects of Ameritech's OSS. In an early round of live test orders, approximately  
8 30% of the orders errored out initially. In addition, it should be understood that these  
9 initial orders were among the most simple that Ameritech will face: resold "plain old  
10 telephone service" ("POTS"). In my opinion, these numbers and percentages are not the  
11 entire story.

12 Q: PLEASE EXPLAIN.

13 A: I strongly encourage this Commission to look beyond the raw percentage data of  
14 complete and rejected orders and focus on some of the specific problems encountered in  
15 MCI's initial attempts to use Ameritech's interfaces. At the same time, I caution the  
16 Commission not to look only to the discrete problems identified in my testimony to  
17 determine whether or not Ameritech's systems are fully tested and operational. In other  
18 words, the Commission should reject any argument by Ameritech that once these specific  
19 errors are cured, that no other errors will remain. My examples are by no means a  
20 complete catalog of the deficiencies of Ameritech's systems. Instead, I offer these



1 anecdotes as strong evidence that additional problems will be uncovered as the full  
2 functionality of these systems, as well as Ameritech's back-office procedures are put to  
3 the test, especially as CLECs begin to order products that are more complicated to  
4 process than resold POTS. Ameritech has been arguing for months before various  
5 regulators that its OSS systems are fully tested, operational and support all needed  
6 functionality. That significant problems remained in these systems during this period  
7 (and continue today) casts strong doubt on the reliability of Ameritech's internal testing,  
8 as well as its working definition of fully tested and operational.

9 Q: PLEASE PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE OF A PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED IN  
10 ORDERING RESOLD POTS.

1 A: As I testified before the PSC of Wisconsin, through MCI's early testing of the resale  
12 ordering system, we have discovered that in some cases Ameritech notified us that  
13 specific orders were complete before the work was actually completed. In some of these  
14 cases, Ameritech notified MCI that an order that had actually been rejected was instead  
15 complete.

16 As Ameritech has explained the design of its system to me, there are two major steps  
17 involved with a resale order; the "ordering piece" and the "drop to billing piece." The  
18 ordering piece performs all of work that needs to be done at the switch (if any). The  
19 billing piece changes the billing name of the account and makes the end-user account  
20 invisible to the retail side of Ameritech. Ameritech gives us a "complete" once the

1 ordering piece is done, without waiting until the order has successfully navigated the  
2 change in Ameritech's billing systems. As we found out with our testing, orders have  
3 errored out in the drop to billing procedure, after MCI was notified that the job was  
4 successful and complete. MCI was never made aware of the subsequent error at the  
5 billing change stage. Why does this concern me? In this situation, both companies think  
6 the customer belongs to them. The retail side of Ameritech has full visibility to the  
7 customer's account and has no idea that the customer now belongs to someone else. The  
8 customer could potentially receives bills from both companies for the same period of  
9 time. This will create confusion on the part of the customer and an increase in customer  
10 service calls to MCI. To me, this signals a significant design flaw in Ameritech's  
11 system if an error that is not detected until further down in the process can cause a  
12 customer to be billed by multiple carriers.

13 Q: YOU INDICATED THAT YOU TESTIFIED ABOUT THIS PROBLEM IN THE  
14 WISCONSIN PROCEEDING. HAS AMERITECH SINCE ADDRESSED THIS  
15 ISSUE?

16 A: Not to MCI's satisfaction. Ameritech has informed me that they are in the process of  
17 identifying and eliminating the specific problem that caused these orders to error out in  
18 the "drop to billing" phase of Ameritech's business process. It certainly represents  
19 progress that Ameritech is seemingly close to addressing the specific problem in its  
20 systems that caused these particular orders to error out after the work was done at the  
21 switch. However, Ameritech remains unwilling to address what I view as being a more

1 fundamental design flaw in its system, i.e., Ameritech still refuses to wait before sending  
2 a "complete" notice until after the order has successfully been changed in the Ameritech  
3 billing system. Thus, if a new problem is subsequently causes orders to again error out  
4 during the "drop to billing" piece for a different reason, Ameritech would continue to  
5 send its "complete" notification, even though the order did not successfully complete. As  
6 explained above, this design defect, which Ameritech now explicitly refuses to remedy,  
7 could cause a customer to be visible to be visible to both Ameritech and to a CLEC,  
8 resulting in the potential for such customer to be billed by both companies.

9 Q: ARE YOU AWARE OF WHAT THE SPECIFIC PROBLEM IS THAT AMERITECH  
10 HAS IDENTIFIED AS CAUSING THESE PREVIOUS ORDERS TO ERROR OUT  
1 DURING THE "DROP TO BILLING"?

12 A: No I am not. This concerns me for another reason. MCI, and to my knowledge, AT&T  
13 have pressed Ameritech for information as to why various orders are erroring out, or  
14 alternatively dropping to manual processing once received by Ameritech. To date,  
15 Ameritech has been slow in providing such information. Ameritech has apparently taken  
16 the position that what happens on its end of the interface is of no concern to CLECs. This  
17 attitude is troubling to MCI because it is important that the parties work cooperatively to  
18 reduce the number of orders that error out altogether, or which require significant manual  
19 processing.

20 Q: YOU MENTION MANUAL PROCESSING. WHY SHOULD A CLEC BE

1 CONCERNED WITH THE LEVEL OF MANUAL PROCESSING ON AMERITECH'S  
2 SIDE OF THE INTERFACE? ISN'T THAT SOLELY AMERITECH'S CONCERN?

3 A: There are several reasons that a CLEC should be concerned about the level of manual  
4 processing required at Ameritech's end of the interface. Manual access arrangements are  
5 simply not compatible with MCI's needs as a new entrant seeking to compete against an  
6 entrenched incumbent. Every manual intervention causes delay, sometimes substantial,  
7 and creates significant risk of error. By relying upon manual interventions, Ameritech  
8 can hold its competitors hostage to its own response time, hours of operation, and ability  
9 (or incentive) to provide accurate information. Also, manual arrangements increase  
10 CLECs' costs in two ways: CLECs must employ more people to handle the process and  
11 to audit Ameritech's performance; and Ameritech will try to pass its own inflated costs  
12 through to the CLECs. Accordingly, solutions that require manual intervention on  
13 Ameritech's side cannot be acceptable in either the short or long term.

14 In addition, reducing the level of manual intervention required by Ameritech should  
15 result in a reduction in the possibility of human error affecting these orders. As the PSC  
16 of Wisconsin found, there is a statistically-significant correlation between manual  
17 processing at Ameritech's end and missed installation due dates.

18 Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE OF PROBLEMS THAT  
19 REMAIN IN AMERITECH'S OSS SYSTEMS WHICH MAY IMPACT END USER  
20 CUSTOMERS?

1     A:     Yes. One of our test customers lost dial tone on Friday 3/21. The customer was able to  
2           dial into Ameritech's automated 611 repair system and was able to open a trouble ticket  
3           with Ameritech, despite the fact that this was an MCI customer and the system was  
4           supposed to immediately kick out such complaint. Ameritech's 611 system was unable to  
5           recognize that this was a resold account. The trouble ticket was reviewed later in the day  
6           by Ameritech personnel who finally determined that the account was for an MCI resale  
7           customer. Ameritech called the MCI customer back to inform him that he must open a  
8           trouble ticket with MCI. MCI's trouble handling group then sent a trouble ticket to  
9           Ameritech on Friday. Ameritech has since advised us that they do not have a record of  
10          the Friday trouble ticket number sent by MCI. I believe that this may be because the  
11          Ameritech systems have no visibility to a trouble ticket once it has been closed.  
12          Ameritech has been able to find a subsequent trouble ticket that was sent for this  
13          customer on Monday, 3/24. Service was finally restored to this customer on 3/26, i.e.,  
14          five days after the customer initially reported the outage.

15          After this problem was brought to Ameritech's attention, it informed MCI that it has since  
16          changed their system so that if a resold customer calls into 611, that when the customer's  
17          phone number is entered, it will immediately be told that they are a resold customer.  
18          Despite Ameritech's representations, as of 4/21/97, an MCI resale customer was still able  
19          to access Ameritech's 611 system.

20          I have every reason to presume that Ameritech will eventually be able to eliminate this

1 specific bug in its repair and maintenance systems. However, it illustrates a broader  
2 point: this is just another instance of a problem that was uncovered only after MCI started  
3 sending live customers through. This error was not discovered during Ameritech's own  
4 internal testing process.

5 Q: HAVE YOU DISCOVERED ANY OTHER PROBLEMS DURING YOUR TEST OF  
6 AMERITECH'S RESALE ORDERING SYSTEM?

7 A: Yes. Other troubling errors have occurred even with orders that Ameritech deems  
8 complete. For example, in a number of migration orders (i.e., transferring an existing  
9 Ameritech customer to MCI), certain features on such customers' accounts were  
10 unexplainedly dropped. In addition, other features were mysteriously added. This type of  
11 error is especially tricky to discover because it may not show up until a bill is generated  
12 and audited. In the meantime, MCI and the end-user customer will have been notified by  
13 Ameritech that the order was successfully processed. Once transactions are flowing at  
14 full volumes, such errors will be extremely difficult to track and correct.

15 Q: IN MR. MELXNER'S TESTIMONY HE SUGGESTS THAT THE MAJORITY OF  
16 PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY CLECS ARE NOT DUE TO DESIGN FLAWS ON  
17 AMERITECH'S SIDE OF THE INTERFACE, BUT ARE RATHER DUE TO ERRORS  
18 BY THE CLEC, FOR EXAMPLE, IN INVALID DATA IN EDI ORDERS (page 11).  
19 DO YOU AGREE?

20 A: Hardly. One of the most fundamental design flaws in Ameritech's system is its fragility,

1 i.e., its intolerance for errors, but worse, in the poor design and inability for Ameritech's  
2 systems to recognize errors on either side.

3  
4 Ameritech's systems are really deficient in their ability to detect and respond to any  
5 problems. During an early technical trial, one MCI order took 3 weeks to fully make it  
6 through Ameritech's system, and worse, Ameritech did not know that the order had  
7 errored out until we told them. Similarly, one of our employee test orders, which  
8 Ameritech had given a 2/20 complete date, had yet to be properly completed, at least as  
9 of 3/28. Again, we had to inform Ameritech that the order did not truly complete within  
10 their system, despite their erroneous completion notice.

11  
12 In considering the key question of commercial readiness, the Commission should keep in  
13 mind that while MCI has been able to track this relatively small amount of POTS orders  
14 during testing, despite the defects in Ameritech's systems, it will be next to impossible for  
15 any CLEC to keep ahead of false "complete" reports from Ameritech, as well as other  
16 problems, once volumes reach any commercially significant level and once the orders  
17 become more complicated.

18 Q: YOU HAVE OFFERED TESTIMONY ON THE LACK OF VIABILITY OF  
19 AMERITECH'S RESALE OSS SYSTEMS. WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO MR.  
20 ROGERS ASSESSMENT OF AMERITECH'S OSS SYSTEMS FOR THE ORDERING

1 AND PROVISIONING OF UNEs (page 3)?

2 A: ASR is an interface designed to enable IXC's (and CAPs) to order access arrangements  
3 from the LECs. As an interface for ordering unbundled loops, ASR is not in accordance  
4 with industry guidelines, which specify EDI formats. As such, Ameritech's decision to  
5 deploy ASR for this function is inconsistent with its own previous acknowledgment that  
6 "[t]he ability to do business between multiple local exchange carriers and incumbent  
7 LECs dictates that . . . electronic interfaces adhere to national or industry-based standards  
8 where available."<sup>1</sup>

9 It is certainly not the case that it is appropriate to use for a particular function a standard  
10 interface developed and approved for a different function. For one thing, Ameritech  
11 imposes an approximately \$50 tariffed charge for every ASR it processes. This so-called  
12 "Administrative Fee" is exorbitant and serves as a transactional penalty. Far more  
13 importantly, Ameritech's decision to use different interfaces for different pieces of what  
14 should be single transactions greatly exacerbates the burdens faced by the CLEC. In  
15 particular, separating the ordering process for loops and unbundled local switching  
16 between two separate and distinct ordering systems will require duplicate work to  
17 combine a single loop and a single switch port just to provide basic phone service.  
18 Furthermore, at present CLECs must submit orders for service disconnect and for interim

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<sup>1</sup> Ameritech July 10 Ex Parte, at 5, quoted in Local Competition Order ¶ 513.



1 local number portability ("ILNP") -- both of which are usually required in any order for  
2 unbundled loops -- by fax. This fragmentation of ordering processes is as unnecessary as  
3 it is onerous. The industry forums have defined the requirements for a mechanized LSR  
4 to be used with the EDI interface that accommodates (among other things) the ability to  
5 order unbundled loops, switches, service disconnect and ILNP together. This is the  
6 industry standard solution Ameritech should use.

7 Q: HAS MCI TESTED AMERITECH'S ABILITY TO PROCESS REQUESTS FOR  
8 UNBUNDLED LOOPS?

9 A: Although MCI has run unbundled loop trials with Ameritech, we have not used its ASR  
10 interface for reasons that underscore why Ameritech's proposed solution is wholly  
11 inadequate. MCI is gearing up to offer local service in many states at once and it is  
12 simply too expensive and burdensome for MCI to develop the capability to use  
13 nonstandard interfaces in all of these states. This is especially true because the  
14 fragmentation of Ameritech's ordering process ensures that MCI would realize little  
15 benefit were we to make the efforts necessary to use Ameritech's ASR. Because we  
16 would still have to fax orders for disconnect and ILNP, it is almost irrelevant whether we  
17 fax the order for the unbundled loop itself or send that order via a (nonstandard)  
18 automated interface. MCI, like any CLEC, requires an automated solution that  
19 accommodates all discrete pieces that are involved in the provision of service via  
20 unbundled elements because that whole transaction is only as efficient as the efficiency of  
21 its weakest part. It should be understood that the weakest link in Ameritech's loop

1 ordering process is significantly so.

2 Q: WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF AMERITECH'S PROVISIONING INTERFACES  
3 FOR UNES?

4 A: Provisioning involves the exchange of information between carriers in which one  
5 executes a request for a set of products or services from the other with attendant  
6 acknowledgments and status reports. There are three provisioning sub-functions, i.e.,  
7 three types of reports the provisioning Ameritech must communicate to the requesting  
8 CLEC: firm order confirmation, change in order status, and order completion.  
9 Ameritech uses the ASR interface for firm order confirmation but does not employ -- and  
10 apparently does not even intend to employ -- any form of automated interface for the  
11 other two sub-functions. This is totally unsatisfactory.

12 In other proceedings, Ameritech has generally asserted that there is no need for a  
13 mechanized interface for order status and order completion when provisioning UNES  
14 because most unbundled loop orders are coordinated with the requesting carrier. This  
15 argument is nothing less than absurd. Customers demand prompt and accurate  
16 information regarding the timely provision of telecommunications services.  
17 Consequently, CLECs like MCI require a mechanized interface for both resold and  
18 unbundled services in order to provide timely and up-to-date information regarding the  
19 status, potential delay, and final completion of the provision of these services. Relying  
20 on the Ameritech to provide the necessary information manually is not acceptable.

1       Indeed, the fact that Ameritech does offer an EDI interface for these subfunctions in the  
2       resale context only underscores the inappropriateness of their refusal to do the same for  
3       ordering of unbundled elements.

4       Q:   PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AS TO WHY AMERITECH'S OSS SYSTEMS  
5       ARE NOT YET FULLY OPERATIONAL.

6       A:   Although it is a trite expression, the oft-spoken claim that "the devil is in the details"  
7       applies here. As one recent industry publication put it, "OSS includes everything that  
8       runs or monitors the network, such as trouble reporting or billing systems, but is not  
9       actually the network itself."<sup>2</sup> Stated otherwise, OSS consists of all the computerized and  
10      automated systems, together with associated business processes, that ensure the carrier  
11      can satisfy customer needs and expectations. This bears repeating: OSS is more than a  
12      series of interfaces. The most sophisticated graphical interfaces with pull-down menus  
13      are worth little if there are insufficient business processes behind the interfaces. Even  
14      through its limited testing, MCI has found that significant details remain unresolved.

15      OSS is not just about inter-carrier interfaces. To the contrary, Ameritech and other  
16      ILECs must, and do, have advanced OSS capabilities simply to run their internal  
17      operations that have nothing do with the particular LEC's relationship to other carriers.  
18      Some of these processes will work essentially the same way whether the function at issue

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<sup>2</sup> Ed Feingold, Making Sense of OSS, Billing World, Jan. 1997, at 21, 22.

1 is performed for an end-user or a CLEC. For example, when a customer orders new  
2 service from a reseller that requires a line to be turned up, the reseller basically stands in  
3 the shoes of Ameritech: if the interfaces between the two carriers work as they should, the  
4 fact that the pre-ordering and ordering processes are mediated through a new carrier (the  
5 CLEC) should not add additional complication to Ameritech's existing provisioning  
6 systems. That is, the provisioning function itself should look much the same regardless  
7 whether the end-user takes that service directly from Ameritech or from a reseller of the  
8 BOC's service.

9  
10 But there are other ways in which the new CLEC-ILEC dynamic does impose new  
11 requirements on Ameritech's downstream systems. For example, when a CLEC resells  
12 an existing service to an existing Ameritech customer, the processing of that order  
13 requires a communication between the ILEC's ordering and billing systems that  
14 Ameritech does not otherwise engage in for itself. In other words, the entire phenomenon  
15 of migrating an existing line with existing vertical services is one that the Ameritech did  
16 not perform in a pre-resale world. Similarly, when a CLEC orders unbundled elements,  
17 the new challenge for Ameritech is not only to receive and understand that order (this is  
18 where the ordering interfaces come in), but also to carry out that order. Before the 1996  
19 Act, the ILECs did not have OSS systems in place to effectuate the unbundling of, say,  
20 local switching.

21 Q: WHAT ABOUT THE LATEST 6-VOLUME SET OF ORDERING GUIDES

1 PROVIDED TO MCI BY AMERITECH? DO THESE VOLUMES PROVIDE ALL  
2 THE "DETAILS" THAT BEDEVIL CLECs?

3 A: Unfortunately, I suspect that the latest set of binders will not address all of the  
4 information that MCI and other CLECs will need to successfully utilize Ameritech's OSS  
5 systems. Much of the information contained in these volumes has never been shared  
6 before. MCI will need more time to study the guides in depth before any intelligent  
7 assessment can be made.

8 Based on MCI's initial review of these guides, there is still insufficient and incomplete  
9 information on the logic and order flow design of Ameritech's business processes, as well  
10 as the business rules. In conversations with Ameritech personnel, MCI has been  
11 informed that this information will be forthcoming eventually, but that it is not yet  
12 available for delivery, either in hard copy or on Ameritech's Web Page.. Such  
13 information, resident in the Ameritech personnel who have years of experience in using  
14 Ameritech's own internal OSS systems, is critical for the proper use of the CLEC side of  
15 the interfaces, especially with respect to more complicated orders.

16 For these reasons, I strongly urge the Illinois Commission not to be distracted by the  
17 sheer volume of information presented in the new guides, but to assess whether this  
18 information is relevant and sufficient to support CLEC entry.

19 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

1 A. This concludes my testimony at this time.

# Preferred Intelligence, LLC

*Your Information Resource*

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## Transcript from Open Commission Meeting on 04/03/97

This is a rough draft translation of the proceedings.  
It is completed to the best ability of the transcriptionist and should not be  
considered an official document.

Any inaudible areas are recreated using notes and denoted through the  
use of italics.

Any notations that are added by Preferred Intelligence, LLC, that do not  
relate to the actual transcription are denoted in italics in parentheses.

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Meeting Start: 11:00 a.m.

Commission Chairperson Parrino joined the meeting by phone. Commissioners  
Mettner and Eastman were in attendance.

EASTMAN: This will bring the open meeting for Thursday, April  
3rd, 1997, *to order*. Could I have information on the minutes?

THE CLERK: On the minutes for Thursday, March 13th, on page  
two, under Item 1 A, the word "deregulation" will be changed to "competition",  
excuse me. The next paragraph will be changed to read "The Commission  
determined the following guidelines should be used to determine when a market  
can be deregulated." We're going to add a subparagraph six, which reads "The  
Commission determined that the application of the guidelines will be evaluated in  
the context of the specific facts."

On Page 3, under subparagraph E, second to the bottom line, we're  
going to delete the words, "on exception to the standard basis."

On Page 4, under subparagraph B after the words "certified", we're  
going to put "or registered" And, after the words "certification", we're going to  
put "or registration."

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On Page 5, the second full paragraph, the third line down, we're going to delete the words "within six months of the implementation of the work group discussions".

On Page 7, after subparagraph three, we're going to delete the last part of that sentence and change it to read, "and noted that universal service in the context of the gas industry does not meet availability statewide".

On Page 10, subparagraph H, we're going to delete the first part of the second line, which reads "unless the LDC is providing terrible service".

And on Page 11, excuse me, subparagraph M, that'll be changed to read, "The commission determined that it was not in a position to unbundle LDC services, but it is an issue that needs to be reviewed."

Under 7-B, after however, we're going to add, "a properly designed pilot is still a possibility, and is not exclusively a work group issue."

And on the minutes for Tuesday, March 25th, under subparagraph 1, we're going to add on the third line, "specified in the WGC February 4, 1997, request".

And there are no other changes or corrections that I'm aware of.

COMMISSIONER PARRINO: I would then move for the adoption of the minutes of March 13th and March 22nd.

COMMISSIONER METTNER: I'll second.

COMMISSIONER EASTMAN: All those in favor say I.

COMMISSIONER METTNER: I.

COMMISSIONER PARRINO: I.

COMMISSIONER EASTMAN: Motion carried.

Could I have information on notices and orders.

THE CLERK: The commissioners have reviewed the proposed notice and orders and have indicated no objection to notice Number 1 and order Number 2 will be laid over.

COMMISSIONER PARRINO: I would move then for the adoption of notice Number 1.

COMMISSIONER METTNER: I'll second.

COMMISSIONER EASTMAN: All those in favor say I.

COMMISSIONER PARRINO: I.

COMMISSIONER METTNER: I.

COMMISSIONER EASTMAN: Motion carried. Okay, then could I have information on the agenda for today.

THE CLERK: The commissions have reviewed the agenda and there are no changes to the suggested minute for three and four and, there is no additional information on items six and seven.

COMMISSIONER PARRINO: I'd move then for the adoption of the



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suggested minutes for items three and four.

COMMISSIONER METTNER: I'll second.

COMMISSIONER EASTMAN: All those in favor signify by saying

I.

COMMISSIONER EASTMAN: I.

COMMISSIONER PARRINO: I.

COMMISSIONER EASTMAN: Okay, is there any miscellaneous business on the agenda.

THE CLERK: No miscellaneous business.

COMMISSIONER EASTMAN: Okay, then we move to Item Number five, Matters relating to the Satisfaction of Conditions for Offering InterLATA Service in Wisconsin.

COMMISSIONER PARRINO: Do you want me to lead off?

COMMISSIONER EASTMAN: Sure, Cheryl.

COMMISSIONER PARRINO: Maybe we should talk a little bit about how we wanted to approach this. I have at least laid out my thoughts and I've got five general categories, and I'll see if that's okay with you.

The first category would be what are the standards for review and working through those.

The second category would be what I call an analysis of the record and what did the record tell us about these issues.

Third, I would go to what I call findings. Is the operations system support tested and operational, and do competitors have nondiscriminatory access to the system and do CLECs have access to interface design specifications.

The fourth category I'd like to specifically address are the issues that Mr. Dawson raised in his oral arguments as well as what he called (*inaudible*).

And, the fifth, is any next steps.

Does that sound like an okay framework?

COMMISSIONER EASTMAN: That's fine with me.

COMMISSIONER METTNER: Yeah, I can work with that.

COMMISSIONER PARRINO: Okay, and it'd be my preference if we would at least try to take a break between each one of those sections.

As far as standards for review, (*This section references the Statement of Generally Available Terms and Conditions (SGAT)*). I first went to Section 252, Sub F, Sub 1, which talks about a Bell operating company's ability to file a statement of terms and conditions that such company generally offers within that state to comply with the requirements of Section 251 and the regulations thereunder. Section 252, Sub F, Sub 2, provided directions to the state commission with regard to approval, and that section says that a state commission may not approve such statement unless the statement complies with subsection D